

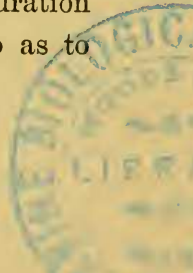
utilized to an almost unlimited extent in various ways, scarcely admits of question. The establishment, however, of a new industry, such as a Herring Fishery would be here, is always a difficult and costly thing, and not to be undertaken with the hope of immediate returns. The British Fishery Society, established about the end of last century, for the prosecution of the Herring Fishery in the North of Scotland, laboured for many years before the Fishery became a complete success, and they were for many years largely assisted by the Government with grants, bounties, &c. So it must be here, before much can be done; and until a liberal Government or a wealthy company undertake the task of establishing Fisheries on our shores, all we can attempt is to endeavour to make ourselves better acquainted with the history and habits of the finny tribes. It is most desirable that all those who have the opportunities, such as fishermen, masters of coasting vessels, &c., should make notes of *where* and *when* they came across shoals of fish—the *kind* of fish, of which a specimen or two should be put into spirits for identification—the *direction* in which the shoal is moving—the apparent extent of it—whether they are full or spent fish—and any other remarks occurring to the observer at the time. I shall be very glad to receive and register all such observations, which even if they are of no further use, will certainly help in the solution of two points—*where* and *how* to fish to the best advantage for the different species.

---

NOTES ON THE GENUS *Cypræa*.

BY JAMES C. COX, M.D., F.L.S., &c.

The various species of the genus *Cypræa* are, as a rule, well defined in their characters, but several which are found in our neighbouring waters vary sufficiently in shape and colouration to make it worth while to have these variations noted so as to



prevent a creation of new species from what are mere varieties. In some species found at New Caledonia the altered shape of the shell is so marked that it really amounts to a distortion, still this has been found no excuse for creating these deformities or varieties, as we choose to look upon them, into new species. Take for instance the *Cypræa Eglantina* of Duclou, which is, undoubtedly, only a variety of *C. Arabica*; again, the elongated, distorted specimens of *Moneta*, from New Caledonia, were described and named as a new species by Crosse under the name of *C. Barthelemyi*, and is now only considered a variety, being found in all stages of transition; distorted specimens also of *C. annulus* were named by Marie as a new species under the name of *C. knomeensis*. *C. Crossei* of Marie can only be regarded as a distorted variety of *C. stolidia*; and recently I have seen other well marked species varying quite as much as those enumerated from the fine collection of Mr. Rossitor, in New Caledonia; the species seem to vary more, especially in shape, from the last named locality than any other. The colouration of the common *C. caunea* is found to vary very much at the Mauritius; during some of the recent great tidal waves which visited that isle some specimens were thrown up altogether devoid of their characteristic markings.

I have now to record another well marked variety of one of the larger well known species from Circular Head, in Tasmania. The specimen produced is an almost pure white variety of *Cypræa umbilicata* of Sowerby; it is quite devoid of all the usual characteristic spots and colouration of that species, and, without due caution, might be easily described as a new one.

Sowerby, in his Monograph, speaks of the species thus:—  
“lactea fulvo—nebulosa maculis rotundis parvis fuscis ad dorsum variegata.”

The present specimen is quite devoid of any approach to any such small round spots as quoted, and I have thought it worthy

